

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's attention is drawn the fact that the returned Form PTO 1449 associated with applicant's April 14, 2005 IDS was not completely initialed. In particular, the "Other Documents" section included the International Search Report and three other documents which the Examiner failed to initial. Return of a fully initialed copy of this Form PTO-1449 is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Examiner's attention is drawn to the supplemental IDS filed October 11 2007 and all of the references cited therein. Return of a fully initialed copy of the Form PTO-SB/08a is also respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Charlton '354 is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to the synchronization of information presented to a user in more than one mode -- known as a multi-modal interface. In one example described on page 2, lines 20 onwards, an audio-visual telephone call can be made where the audio and the visual components are made through separate devices. Synchronization delays arise due to a number of factors, including differing processing requirements for different mode types, transit delays owing to different paths taken to the respective devices, and so on.

The synchronized presentation is, according to the invention, achieved by synchronizing delivery of the multi-modal information, particularly where sent to more than one presentation device which are located remotely from each other, and where at least one such device is not subject to the same control process as the other.

Charlton is directed to a problem in a different technical area. The issues concern the synchronization of a time dependent presentation to an arbitrary time reference in a data processing system (1:9-13). Thus Charlton is directed to the synchronization of a single, uni-modal presentation to a clock, and not the synchronization of the presentation of two (or more) media presentations to each other. Charlton sets out to address problems set out in 1:19-35; problems concerning a presentation in a single mode. This can be contrasted with the issues concerning the applicant's invention, such as user confusion resulting from incorrect sequencing and timings in the presentation of the multi-modal information Page 1, lines 17 to 23).

Turning now to the claims and referring to claim 1 as an example, there is nothing in Charlton which discloses or teaches the synchronization of delivery of first and second information, and so on. The Examiner's identification of decision block 296 in Figure 1 against step (i) of claim 1 is confusing: the Charlton decision block refers to the step wherein the system determines if a predetermined time (being the minimum time before certain steps are performed: 14:5-8) has been exceeded by an elapsed time. It is hard to see how this is thought to be similar to step (i) of claim 1 which is a calculation step to estimate delivery time required - as described on page 19, lines 4 onwards which is more of an adding process. Similar comments apply to the identification of decision step 316 against step (ii) of claim 1.

The rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Charlton in view of Dutta '458 is also respectfully traversed.

Fundamental deficiencies of Charlton have already been noted above for parent claim 1. Accordingly, it is not believed necessary at this time to explain the further deficiencies of this allegedly "obvious" combination of references with respect to claim 5.

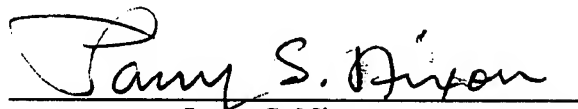
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Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~A method of synchronizing the~~The delivery to a user of first information ~~which is~~
~~to be presented to the user via a visual display of a multi-modal interface and of is~~
synchronized with second information ~~which is to be presented to the user over a visual or~~
~~an audio interface of the multi-modal interface, in which the.~~ The multi-modal interface
process estimates the total time needed to deliver the first information to the visual
display (or to a store local to the visual display), estimates the total time needed to deliver
the second information to the visual or audio interface (or to a store local to the visual or
audio interface);, and then uses the estimates to determine whether the presentation to the
user of the first or second information ~~to the user~~ needs to be delayed to achieve a desired
synchronism of presentation; ~~and then applies any.~~ Any delay determined to be
necessary is applied to achieve the desired synchronism of presentation.